

# RECREATION

## RECREATION DEPARTMENT

In 2008, the Arlington Recreation Department continued to offer a variety of safe, quality programs and facilities for the residents of the Town of Arlington.

The Veterans Memorial Skating Rink at the Arlington Sports Center made many important improvements including: repaired the damaged roof, repaired the snow holding area in the Zamboni room, galvanized all metal components in the condensing tower, added new anti-slip strips to all spectator areas, painted the interior of the rink and stands Arlington School colors, revitalized the existing dasher boards and glass, and added additional display cases in the lobby for both high school programs. Rink Supervisor Dave Cunningham has also increased the marketing opportunities at the rink by selling a total of eight board advertisements, resulting in significantly more advertising revenue.

The Recreation Department has been committed to improving the quality of existing programs. The Department has restructured many of its programs including its vacation clubs and after school programming. Also offered were a variety of programs including beginner dance, language, hiking, advanced tennis classes, karate, cooking, art, a flag football league, fitness programs, and snowshoeing. The Department started its third year overseeing the full administration of the Arlington Youth Travel Basketball Program. Overall the participation numbers in the programs have dropped slightly with approximately 4,200 participants.

The Arlington Reservoir continued to be a popular summer cooling spot for residents with a total of 1,525 passes being sold; a decrease from 1,580 passes sold the previous year. This overall decrease can be attributed to more family passes being sold. The number of family passes sold this past year increased by 150, which decreases the number of individual passes sold. This was the third year that season passes were sold at the reservoir. The North Union Spray Pool located adjacent to the Thompson Elementary School was also enjoyed by residents on a daily basis throughout the summer. The North Union Spray Pool continues to be a free service offered by the Recreation Department.

The Gibbs Gymnasium continued to house a majority of the recreation indoor programs as well as provide indoor birthday party and gym rental options for the Arlington community. The Gym hosted ninety-two birthday parties in 2008, which was a similar volume to 2007.

Arlington Recreation collaborates with other Town organizations and recreation centers in Arlington to offer town-wide special events. Such events include the Town Day Road Race, Memorial Road Race, the new Arlington Rocks Day, Spring Craft Fair, and Summer Carnival. This year we continued to offer the successful Special Needs Skate Program with the Arlington Catho-

lic High School Boys' & Girls' Hockey team and their coaching staff. The Arlington Sports Center also hosted its second Coming Together Dance series for students in grades 5-8. Arlington Recreation offered their first Senior Dinner Dance in 2008. Arlington Recreation proudly held their Inaugural Golf Tournament at the Hillview Country Club. The first year tournament had seventy-two participants and eighteen hole sponsors.

Limited outdoor recreational facilities and playing fields continue to be an important issue facing the Department. The Department continues to work with both high schools and the many youth sport associations to adopt policy and procedures to assist in the scheduling and maintenance of our playing fields. The Department also continues to manage the capital improvement projects for the Park and Recreation Commission. Capital projects completed in 2008 include Buzzell Field, Pheasant Avenue Playground, and Menotomy Rocks Park. The Commission continues to work on the Thordike Field Parking Lot project and the Arlington Sport Complex feasibility study. The management of these projects continues to be a major responsibility of the Director of Recreation.

In the Fall of 2008 the Recreation Department began taking phone registration and has contracted with Business and Professional Exchange to accept phone registration 24 hours a day.

Recreation Activities	2006	2007	2008
Arlington Youth Travel Basketball Participants	3,853	4,700	4,200
Reservoir Passes Sold (individual)	N/A	1,475	1,580
Birthday Parties Held at Gibbs Gym	73	98	92

Looking ahead to 2009, the Arlington Recreation Department will continue to offer residents quality recreational programming. It is the goal to increase and or improve upon program offerings every season. Arlington Recreation will also continue to work with users of the Arlington Sports Center and Town outdoor playing fields to address the increasing needs of the community. Our financial goal is to continue to become increasingly self-supporting through appropriate fee structuring, improved program quality, and increased program budget management.

## RECREATION

*Submissions of Arlington Recreation's First Town Wide Snowman Contest. The winner had their picture displayed on the 2009 Winter Brochure.*

**Arlington Recreation  
Winter Program 2009**

**Registration Information:**  
Mail-In, On-Line,  
Fax & Walk-In  
Registration:  
December 15  
Out-Of-Town  
Residents:  
December 22

